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Appl. No. 10/039,753
Amdt. dated February 28, 2007
Response to Advisory Action of February 21, 2007.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 25, 28, 31, 32, and 34-39 are allowed and claims 26, 29, and 33 are rejected. By the present amendment, claims 26, 29, and 33 are amended for clarity. The amendments are fully supported by the application and add no new matter.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone conference of February, 27, 2007, during which the §102/103 rejection and proposed amendments of claims 26, 29, and 33 were discussed.

In view of the above-described amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of claims 26, 29, and 33 is respectfully requested.

§102/103 Rejections

Claims 26, 29, and 33 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as anticipated by or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Zhang et al (JAMA, 286, 2136) (hereinafter Zhang et al). By the present amendment Claims 26, 29, and 33 are amended for clarity to recite that the control subjects are control subjects "diagnosed as not having the disease." Applicants submit that claims 26, 29, and 33, as amended, are supported by the priority '432 provisional application, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above-described amendments and remarks, applicants submit that, in addition to allowed claims 1-5, 7-10, 25, 28, 31, 32, and 34-39, claims 26, 29, and 33 are now in conditions for allowance. Prompt notice of such allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendments or remarks, he is asked to call Pamela A. Docherty, at (216) 622-8416.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2007

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